

Get a Grip on the Nature of the Church and Membership

Session 4

Let the Record Reflect... The Problem with Inflated and Inaccurate Membership Records

Introduction:

We have spent four weeks considering the nature of the church and the biblical meaning of membership. This week, we get to a very practical question: Does our membership record really make that much of a difference?

I. The Problem with Inflated Records

By keeping inflated membership records...

- A. We change the meaning of membership.
- B. We give a false assurance of salvation.
- C. We neglect the responsibility of care and accountability.

Galatians 6:2 -- Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- D. We injure the body of Christ by encouraging the isolation of its parts.

Hebrews 10:24-25 -- Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

1 Corinthians 12:-27

II. The Opportunity of Inflated Records

By addressing the existing problem, we have great opportunity for meaningful ministry.

- A. We have the chance to be reunited with isolated parts of the body.
- B. We have the chance to encourage fellow Christians to take their place as biblically appropriate members in a local church.
- C. We have the opportunity to repent as a Church and receive the blessings of God's forgiveness.